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trustees shall be to see that the investments are good, and that the expenses shall not exceed the income.

THE LAST volume of the reports of the Challenger Expedition has been published, and English biologists are reviewing the work. A late number of our esteemed contemporary "Natural Science," consists mainly of a symposium on the results obtained, and the editors congratulate their countrymen on the successful conduct and completion of the enterprise. We join in their congratulations; for Englishmen may well be proud of their work; and Carpenter as its projector, and Moseley and Murray as its managers, will ever be held in esteem by naturalists the world over. By the way our contemporary in another number shows that there is eruptive matter in some of its editorial substrata. It comes to the surface in some strong language anent of a short communication by Dr. Patton to the NATURALIST. Perhaps the irate editor is not familiar with all the circumstances of the case. Neither are we.

RECENT LITERATURE.

From the Greeks to Darwin.¹—In a volume of 260 pages Professor Osborn presents the salient points in the history of the growth of the evolution idea in the European mind. Beginning with the Greek philosophers, the author discusses their conceptions and gives a résumé of the legacy of the Greeks to later evolution. Then follows an account of the contributions of the theologians of the Middle Ages, and of the natural philosophers from Bacon to Schelling. Due credit is given both to the speculative evolutionists, of whom Oken is a type, and to the great naturalists of the eighteenth century who laid the real foundations of the modern evolution idea. Several pages are

¹ From the Greeks to Darwin. An Outline of the Development of the Evolution Idea. By Henry Fairfield Osborn. New York, 1894. Macmillan and Co.

devoted to tracing the rise and decline of evolutionary thought in France, from Buffon to Geoffroy St. Hilaire (Isidore), in which attention is called to the opposing views of what may be termed the Buffon-Lamarck adherents and those of the Cuvier-Linnaeus school. The closing chapter is an exposition of the views of Darwin and Wallace and their precursors in the teaching of natural selection.

This review of the history of thought on organic evolution is timely and will interest a large circle of readers. It is judicial in treatment, and although the author is known to have decided opinions on the subject, they do not appear. He reminds us that the early fathers of the Christian church, and conspicuously Augustine, were evolutionists and that Suarez was not, although the contrary has been alleged. He points out the services of Buffon and Erasmus Darwin to thought, and shows the imaginative genius of the former, and the practical sagacity of the latter. In discussing Lamarck, while crediting him with clear-minded sagacity, he shows the superficial character of many of his attempted explanations. Nevertheless he says in closing his review, "We must close by placing Lamarck in the first rank. He was the first naturalist to become profoundly convinced of the great law, and to place it in the form of a system." He shows that Lamarck was the first author to understand the nature of actual phylogeny, and depict it graphically in true form. Of Darwin, the author says, "The long retention of his theory from publication marks the contrast of his caution with the impetuosity of Lamarck." But it must be remembered that the *Recherches sur l'Organisation des Corps Vivants* was not written until 1802, when Lamarck was no longer young, and had spent his life in study. Further, "He" (Darwin) "sought a hundred facts and observations where his predecessors had sought one; his notes filled volumes, and he stands out as the first evolutionist who worked upon true Baconian principles. It was this characteristic which, combined with his originality, won the battle for the evolution idea." This is an estimate of Darwin which time will confirm.

The perusal of this book will give a just view of the history of thought on the doctrine of organic evolution, and will enable the reader to determine the respective parts which the contributors to our knowledge have played. The improved means of reaching conclusions which the additions to the store of facts in later periods placed within the reach of later authors, are referred to. The vast increase in our knowledge of facts since Darwin, have thrown so much light on the subject that it is to be hoped that Professor Osborn will at some future

time favor us with a volume on the advances made during this period also.

"The Glacial Nightmare and the Flood."¹—To American geologists, the title of this work is almost a challenge, and might cause it to be ignored, but to every student of superficial geology it is an invaluable book. It is a well-arranged history of the observations and growth of the science of superficial geology. To many of the fathers of this department of science, it is a tardy justice, and impresses a fair reader with the vast array of facts which were collected at an early date, not in Europe alone, but also in America, leaving for the later observers far less new work than our modern writers usually recognize. Another lesson taught demonstrates that the generalized conclusions of the greatest idols of science are by no means established, and often retard progress. The teachings of each succeeding generation replace, to some extent, those of the preceding, until at last reaction sets in and separates the chaff and shows us how much the early scientific geniuses did for their science, though, perhaps, drawn off into erroneous by-ways.

The work fairly sets forth the rise of the doctrine of floods and its abandonment; of the growth and limitation of the iceberg theory; of the origin and culmination of the glacial theory, with Schimper at the head, and originating the term *Ice Age*. Thus far the author's hand is hardly seen in the book. The treatise is of special value in systematically bringing together the facts and views and doing justice to the authors of works, many of which have been overlooked or are not accessible to American geologists.

On the subject of the unity of the glacial period the evidence is fairly stated, but the author marshalls an array of data favoring the unity of the Age in its general aspect, a point upon which American glacialists differ. The difficulties in accepting the astronomical causes of the Ice Age are fairly set forth, and these adverse conclusions will be received by most American geologists. The cause of glacier motions, and the mechanical effects of glaciers are discussed from their physical aspects, and appear very satisfactory to most observers. The facts showing the former extension of glaciers are arranged, and show how the ice-cap theory has given place to continental glaciers. But here the work is directed against the extreme views, giving rise to the title of the book, on the ground of lack of evidence, and challenges the right of

¹ By Sir Henry H. Howarth, K. C. I. E., M. P., F. G. S., etc. 2 vol. pp. 1-920. Sampson, Low, Marston & Company, London.